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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR OIIP, AF/PDPA: KMOSELEY AND JSCHAMING  
DEPT ALSO FOR IIP/G/AF, AF/W JHUNTER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [SL](#)  
SUBJECT: FREETOWN MEDIA PLACEMENTS FOR JULY 2008

¶1. Summary: Embassy Freetown's media outreach in July included Ambassador Perry's remarks at the 232nd anniversary of the Independence of the United States, a statement commending the people of Sierra Leone for the successful conduct of the July 5 local council elections in Sierra Leone, and a statement on domestic violence. All statements were accurately and widely covered in print and electronic media. End Summary

¶2. Post and Mission Activities/Press Releases:

¶A. On July 4, in her address at the 4th of July reception, Ambassador Perry said the U.S. will work in partnership with the government of Sierra Leone to help ensure the democratic process succeeds at the local as well as at the national level. She said that to enshrine the hard-won stability that Sierra Leone now enjoys, it is crucial to ensure that those bearing the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed during the civil war face justice, adding, the U.S. has always stood as the primary supporter of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Ambassador Perry commended the people of Sierra Leone on successful local elections and urged Sierra Leoneans to guard their democracy with zeal, letting no individual or group threaten it. Ambassador Perry said it is important that the newly elected officials fully understand how to navigate the processes of governing.

The local press reported as follows:

"American Embassy Celebrates Independence Anniversary" SLBS Radio 7/7; Awoko7/8; www.cocrioko.net 7/8; THE TRUMPET, 7/8; AWARENESS TIMES 7/8; NEW CITIZEN, 7/8; PREMIER NEWS 7/9; THE EXCLUSIVE 7/9;

¶B. On July 3, Embassy Freetown issued a response to Tom Nyuma's suggestion that the U.S. government does not regard domestic violence as a violation of human rights. Nyuma was a resident of the US prior to being elected Chairman of the Kailahun District Council, and admitted beating up his wife in the U.S. before coming to Sierra Leone. In response to his comments, the Embassy distributed President Bush's 2007 Proclamation of a National Domestic Violence Awareness month, said "when a family member is abused, it can have long term damaging effects on the victim," adding, "together, we can help prevent, recognize, and stop domestic violence in America."

The local press reported as follows:

"U.S. Gov't on Tom Nyuma's Statement" CONCORD TIMES 7/3;  
"Tom Nyuma Supports Domestic Violence" CONCORD TIMES 7/1

¶C. On July 9, Ambassador Perry commended Sierra Leoneans for conducting successful local council elections, saying, "the combined efforts of government officials, party officials, candidates, and voters were key to that success." Embassy observers were pleased to see that the elections were conducted in a free and fair manner and applauded the work of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) for maintaining the integrity of the elections and for keeping the polling centers safe. "We were encouraged to see significant levels of participation by women as candidates and voters," the statement added. Ambassador Perry congratulated Sierra Leoneans for meeting the high standards set by

last year's Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

The local press summaries reported as follows:

"Ambassador Perry Commends Sierra Leoneans for Successful Local Council Elections" UN RADIO, CAPITAL RADIO, COTTON TREE NEWS (CTN) 7/9

"For Successful Local Council Elections... US Ambassador Lauds NEC, Political Parties" THE EXCLUSIVE, 7/10

### 13. KEY MEDIA STORIES

1A. On June 30, Chief Electoral Commissioner Dr. Christiana Thorpe announced that 39 local council wards, including the mayorship of Makeni, would be uncontested. Dr. Thorpe said the commission received a total of 71 withdrawals, calling the withdrawals "of great concern to the Commission." She said the commission was concerned about reports of violence in Kono and urged the international organizations and diplomatic missions in the country to observe the election. All 39 uncontested candidates represented the ruling All Peoples Congress (APC).

Embassy Comment: The National Democratic Institute reported many female candidates were intimidated into stepping down.

The local press reported as follows:

"APC Forces 2 to Step Down" THE NEWS 7/1

"38 Ward Councilors Go Unopposed" SALONE TIMES 7/1

"Minister 'Imposes' 4 Independent Candidates in Port Loko District" INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/1

"Ahead of Saturday Polls... Tension Looms over Tongofields" THE SPECTATOR 7/1

"APC 39, SLPP 0, PMDC 0" PREMIER NEWS 7/1

"'I Was Forced to Step Down'" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/1

"NEC Briefs Election Observers" AWOKO 7/1

1B. On July 1, Independent Media Commission (IMC) Chairperson Bernadette Cole said the apparent disconnect between leaders of political parties and their supporters may be responsible for the incidents of violence ahead of the local elections. On July 2, SLPP Secretary General Saffa said representatives of the international community, including the US and EU, were concerned about the violent conduct of supporters of the APC ahead of the elections. Mr. Saffa said the SLPP had complained to the police about attacks on their supporters, but no actions had been taken. Mr. Saffa warned that supporters of the SLPP had expressed their determination "to return fire for fire."

Embassy Comment: The US Embassy issued a warden message reflecting elevated tension, but did not raise concern about any particular incidents.

The local Press reported as follows:

"SLPP Returns Fire for Fire" AWOKO 7/3

"As Local Council Elections Set in... SLPP Launches, APC Fires Back!" SALONE TIMES 7/3

"SLPP Calls for Fair Play" THE NEWS 7/3

"SLPP Worried Over APC Tactics" PREMIER NEWS 7/3

"As SLPP Set to Return Fire for Fire... War?" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/3

"SLPP to Spit 'Fire for Fire'" CONCORD TIMES 7/3

1C. President Koroma condemned the violence perpetrated by supporters of Robert Mugabe. In an interview with BBC Africa, President Koroma urged the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the international community try to resolve the impasse. President Koroma proposed setting up a National Unity government to prepare the country for fresh elections.

Embassy Comment: President Koroma spoke from Egypt, where he was attending an AU Summit. The government of Sierra Leone also issued a press release condemning the violence perpetrated by Robert Mugabe and his cohorts.

The local press reported as follows:

"President Speaks on Zimbabwe... Condemns Mugabe the Butcher" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/2

"Koroma Lacks the Moral Authority to Criticize Mugabe" CONCORD TIMES 7/2

1D. On July 2, Vice President Sam-Sumana launched the Transitional Team report, seven months after it was formally presented to the President. The VP said the report provides guidance to the government regarding the assets and liabilities it inherited from the previous government, adding that it ensures public officials are held accountable. He said the report was not meant to initiate a witch hunt of former government officials, but rather was an attempt to restore sanity in governance.

Embassy Comment: Based on the findings and recommendations of the report, the government announced it would set up a commission of enquiry into the activities of former government officials, which is expected to start hearings shortly.

The local press reported as follows:

"VP Launches Transitional Report" NEW CITIZEN 7/3  
"Transition Report Launched... SLPP Ministers, Top Agency Officials to be Indicted" STANDARD TIMES 7/3  
"SLPP to Face Public Trial at Stadium! Minister Kamal Says Decision Backed By International Body" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/3  
"VP Presents Presidential Transition team Report" THE NEWS 7/3 "Sam Sumana Disappoints citizens" AWARENESS TIMES 7/3

1E. On July 5, the Acting Executive Representative of the UN Secretary General (A/ERSG), Michael van der Schulenburg, commended the people of Sierra Leone for the successful conduct of the July 5 local elections. Schulenburg urged Sierra Leoneans to ensure that subsequent parts of the electoral process, including counting and certification of the results, are finalized properly.

The local press reported as follows:

"Successful Local Council Elections: UN Chief in Sierra Leone Praises the Nation" www.cocorioko.net 7/7  
"UN Acclaims Salone Elections" CONCORD TIMES 7/7  
"Peaceful Election! ... & APC Sweeps Polls, SLPP, PMDC Fight Over Strongholds" INDEPEPNDENT OBSERVER 7/7  
"Democracy Alive in Sierra Leone!!!" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/7  
"APC Wins In Kono & Tongo" AWARENESS TIMES 7/7  
"Police and UN Cover Election" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/7  
"'Let the Best Candidates Win' - President Koroma" AWOKO 7/7  
"Observers Praise Local Council Elections" SALONE TIMES 7/7

1F. On July 6, the National Elections Watch (NEW), a local election monitoring group, accused the President, First Lady, and some ministers of "unduly influencing voters" at the 5 local elections. NEW Chairperson Frances Fortune said she was disappointed at the President's actions, saying, "The President, his wife, and ministers have no right to be moving from one polling station to the other... that is intimidation." NEW described the turnout as disappointingly low. Minister of Information and Communication I. B. Kargbo said the President was moving around the polling stations to assure security. National Electoral Commission (NEC) Chairperson Dr. Thorpe called his actions ill-advised.

The local press reported as follows:

"Koroma, First Lady Created Undue Influence at Polling Stations" CONCORD TIMES 7/7  
"Minister Threatens Bonthe People?" SALONE TIMES 7/7  
"Energy Minister Intimidates Voters?" CHRISTIAN MONITOR 7/7  
"'Local Council Elections Turnout Disappointing' - NEW" www.thepatrioticvanguard.com 7/7  
"Low Voter Turn Out in Freetown, Makeni and Bo" THE NEWS 7/7  
"Low Voter Turnout But..." PREMIER NEWS 7/7

"Musa Tarawally Blamed for Voter Apathy in Moyamba" CONCORD TIMES 7/7  
"NEC Forced to Recount Votes in Kono" CONCORD TIMES 7/18  
"Christiana Thorpe Declares: APC 18, SLPP 8, PMDC 1" AWOKO 7/22  
"As NEC Frowns on Election Fraud... Christiana Thorpe Has Done it Again" SALONE TIMES 7/22  
"167 Complaints Reported to NEC" SALONE TIMES 7/22  
"Tom Nyuma Wins by 38, 119 Votes" AWOKO 7/22  
"Local Council Election Results! APC 10, SLPP 8, PMDC 1" NEW VISION 7/22

1G. On July 9, NEC Public Relations Officer Miatta French said the Commission received 150 complaints from candidates regarding the local election. Ms. French said the Commission would investigate

the complaints and take appropriate measures before the results were announced on July 24. On July 17, NEC recounted ballots from several stations in Kono following allegations of rigging. The recount was done in public view and all parties were satisfied with the result. On July 21, NEC Chairperson declared the results: The APC won 18 Chairperson and Mayoral seats, the SLPP won eight, and the PMDC won one seat. She said 81.1% of those elected were men and that 14 stations' results were invalidated nationwide for recording over 100% voter turnout. Despite some malpractice, she insisted that the outcome of the elections remained impartial and credible.

Embassy Comment: NEC received 167 complaints, which were investigated and handled, but the aggrieved have the right to file with the Elections Petition Court.

The local press reported as follows:

"As NEC Receives 150 Complaints... Alleged: Ballot Papers and Boxes Missing" AWOKO 7/10

"Official Elections Result out Today... Results from 132 Polling Stations in Port Loko Arrive Unsealed in Freetown" INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/10

"In Bonthe... APC, SLPP, PMDC Call for Recounts" NEW VISION 7/10

"NEC to Void SLPP Votes?" THE SPECTATOR 7/10

"For Allegations of Electoral Fraud... PMDC to Challenge Kenema Results" THE POOL 7/10

"NDA Candidate Unhappy With Election Conduct" AWOKO 7/10

1H. The Sierra Leone Police (SLP) on July 13 arrested six people in connection with the plane loaded with cocaine and weapons that landed at Lungi airport. The individuals, including Colombians, Mexicans, and one American, abandoned a plane on the runway in the early hours of July 13. The 700-kilo cargo, worth an estimated \$60 million, is in the custody of the UN and the International Military Advisory Training Team (IMATT).

On July 21, President Koroma vowed that there would be "no sacred cows" in pursuing those involved, saying "on no account will Sierra Leone be used as a transit point for international narcotic trafficking." He said the government sought technical support from the UK in the investigations. The SLP offered a Le 10 million (approximately \$3400) reward for information leading to the capture of Gibrilla Kamara and filed an international warrant with Interpol for his arrest. On July 24, the 19 suspects made their first appearance in court, facing charges including illegal entry and possession of weapons, but no charges relating to the possession of narcotics. The UN Security Council commended President Koroma's handling of the situation.

The local press reported as follows:

"Sierra Leone Police Arrest Drug Crew" news.bbc.co.uk 7/14

"Sierra Leone Seizes 700 kg of Cocaine at Airport" africa.reuters.com 7/14

"Pilots Abandon Plane-load of Cocaine at Lungi Airport and Disappear" www.cocorioko.net 7/14

"President Koroma Inspects Cocaine Plane, After Landing from the Gambia...1 Crew Member Nabbed" www.cocorioko.net 7/14

"US\$ 60M Drug Plane Abandoned at Lungi" NEW VISION 7/14; THE NEW CITIZEN 7/15; DEMOCRAT 7/15; THE TRUMPET 7/15

"As Interpol and FBI braced to move in, Police arrest more suspects of Cocaine plane saga" www.cocorioko.net 7/16

"Cocaine Saga: Police Arrests 58 as I.G. Says They Police the Land and the Air" AWOKO 7/16; PREMIER NEWS 7/16; CONCORD TIMES 7/16; INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/16; SPECTATOR 7/16; THE NEWS 7/16; THE NEW CITIZEN 7/16; WE YONE 7/16

"3 More Foreigners Arrested" PREMIER NEWS 7/18; THE EXCLUSIVE 7/18

"APC Appeals for Patience Over Cocaine Plane" AWARENESS TIMES 7/18

"Cocaine Suspects slapped with 8 Counts Indictment" www.cocorioko.net

"Admirable! UN Security Council Hails Koroma's Efforts in the Global Fight against Cocaine" AWARENESS TIMES 7/25

1I. On July 24, a newspaper quoted officials of the FBI and Scotland Yard saying their organizations were not involved in the cocaine investigation. The denials came a week after the Foreign Affairs Minister claimed that both agencies were in the country to assist in the investigations.

The local press reported as follows:

"No FBI, No Scotland Yard Involved in Cocaine Investigations? Is Zainab a Liar?" AWARENESS TIMES 7/24  
"Cocaine: 35 in Court Tomorrow" INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/24  
"Cocaine Wahala: Youths Mob Businessman" AWOKO 7/24  
"As Cocaine Case Begins in Court Today... No Big Fish caught" AFRICAN CHAMPION 7/24

J. On July 11, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) indicted former Ombudsman Francis A. Gabbidon on 168 counts of misappropriation of public funds. Gabbidon pleaded not guilty, and on July 18, ACC Prosecuting Counsel Glenna Thompson told the High Court that the commission had sufficient evidence to prove that Mr. Gabbidon collected salaries for two lawyers he claimed were employees of the Ombudsman's office from 2004-2007. Ms. Thompson said the two lawyers testified that they never worked for the Ombudsman. The case was adjourned until September 18.

The local press reported as follows:

"Sierra Leone: Anti-Graft Commission indicts former Ombudsman" [www.afriquenligne.fr/news/africa-news/sierra-leone](http://www.afriquenligne.fr/news/africa-news/sierra-leone) 7/14  
"Anti-Corruption Bares Teeth, and Bra Gabbidon runs away?" [www.cocorioko.net](http://www.cocorioko.net) 7/14; SALONE TIMES 7/14; AWOKO 7/14; NEW CITIZEN 7/14; AFRICAN CHAMION 7/14; INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/14; CONCORD TIMES 7/14 FOR DI PEOPLE 7/14; PEEP! MAGAZINE 7/14; THE NEWS 7/14; THE EXCLUSIVE 7/14; THE FOCUS 7/14; WE YONE 7/14; PEEP! MAGAZINE 7/21; SALONE TIMES 7/21; AWOKO 7/21; PREMIER NEWS 7/21;  
"'I am not Guilty' - Gabbidon" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/16  
"Mum or Sister to Bail Former Ombudsman" PREMIER NEWS 7/16  
"Nine Lawyers Represent Gabbidon" PEEP! MAGAZINE 7/16

K. On July 10, President Koroma assessed the performance of his ministers, saying that while some had performed well, others did not. Following the review, it was reported that the President would reshuffle his cabinet. Information Minister Alhaji Ibrahim Kargbo rejected rumors of a cabinet reshuffle, saying President Koroma met with his ministers to remind them of their obligations under the performance bonds. He said the review would help the ministers to worker harder.

Embassy Comment: In March, President Koroma signed performance contracts with all Ministers. The President requested quarterly reports on their activities in relation to the government's five-year plan. Papers identified the Ministers of Marine Resources, Justice, Social Welfare, Agriculture, and Mineral Resources among those to be dismissed.

The local press reported as follows:

"President Ernest Koroma Poised to Reshuffle" [appablog.wordpress.com](http://appablog.wordpress.com) 7/14  
"APC Failed Ministers Must Go Now" THE FOCUS 7/14; SPECTATOR 7/14; STANDARD TIMES 7/14; THE NEWS 7/14; PREMIER NEWS 7/14  
"Information Minister Denies Reshuffle Rumor!" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/16

L. On July 17, Members of Parliament (MPs) held pre-legislative discussions on the Anti-Corruption bill. Anti-Corruption Commissioner Abdul Tejan-Cole told MPs the bill was meant to ensure that the laws of the country comply with the UN Conventions on Preventing and Combating Corruption. The bill gives the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) the power to prosecute without the approval of the Attorney General (AG), though the AG still retains power to nullify cases under prosecution. Civil society groups called for an amendment of that portion of the bill. On July 22, Parliament amended Section 64 (3) of the Constitution to enable the ACC prosecute cases without approval from the AG, clearing the way for the enactment of the Bill this year.

On July 29, MPs expressed concern about the "excessive powers" the bill gave to the ACC. In particular, they criticized the ACC power to indict public officials who receive gifts in excess of Le 500,000 (about \$160) and to arrest relatives and paramours of ACC inditees. One MP called patronage a cultural tradition in Sierra Leone, saying it should not be criminalized. The bill was returned to committee for further deliberation.

The local press reported as follows:

"ACC to Prosecute but A.G. Still has the Powers to Nullify Cases"



AWOKO 7/18

"APC MP Attacks ACC Bill" THE DEMOCRAT 7/18

"Constitution Amended to Enable ACC Prosecute" AWOKO 7/23

"Corruption Pervades the Corridors of Power" DEMOCRAT 7/23

"ACC Now Prosecutes" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/23; PREMIER NEWS 7/23

PEEP! MAGAZINE 7/23

"MPS Worry over ACC Bill" THE NEWS 7/31;

"ACC bill Tabled in Parliament" THE POOL 7/31

"Serry Kamal Tables Anti-Corruption Bill before Parliament" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/31

13. On July 25, Sierra Rutile's largest dredge, "Solondo," capsized without warning while 50 employees were on board. Executive Director John Sisay said 48 workers were rescued and divers were still searching for the remaining two workers. Sisay said they will investigate the incident. On July 28, the Titanium Resources Group (TRG) Ltd. said suspended its shares until it was able to clarify the extent of the incident's impact. On July 28, a government delegation including Ministers of Mineral Resources, Presidential and Public Affairs, and Health visited the site to assess the gravity of the incident. President Koroma also met with senior officers from the Ministry of Mineral Resources and the Management of Sierra Rutile to stress his concern and his government's anxiety over the recovery of the two missing persons. John Sisay assured the President that the company would try to avoid negative impact on its workforce and its support to the community and government revenue.

Embassy Comment: The two workers are yet to be found. Sierra Rutile has scaled down its workforce since the incident because there is only one dredge operating now.

The local press reported as follows:

"Sierra Rutile Dredge Capsizes: No Casualties Yet"

www.cocorioko.net 7/28; www.forbes.com 7/28

"Rutile Dredge Disaster... Dozens Injured, two feared dead" CONCORD TIMES 7/28; NEW VISION 7/28; STANDARD TIMES 7/28;

INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/28; DEMOCRAT 7/28; THE NEWS 7/28; SALONE

TIMES 7/28; AWARENESS TIMES 7/28; NEW AGE 7/28; AWOKO 7/28;

EXCLUSIVE 7/28; PREMIER NEWS 7/28

"Joint Press Statement by the Government of Sierra Leone and Sierra Rutile Limited on the Dredge Incident at the Mine Mombibi"

www.cocorioko.net 7/29

14. GENERAL ARTICLES ABOUT THE U.S.

"In Flag City USA, False Obama Rumors Flying" CONCORD TIMES 7/1

"Obama Responds to Attacks on his Patriotism" WE YONE 7/1; CONCORD TIMES 7/2; THE EXCLUSIVE 7/2

"McCain: Obama's Words Cannot be Trusted" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/1

"McCain, Obama Court Latino Voters" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/1

"Bush Signs Bill Funding Wars in 2009" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/2

"Obama Rejects Clarke's Statement" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/2

"Coalition Troop Deaths in Afghanistan Surpass Iraq" NEW AGE 7/2

"Obama Got Discount on Home Loan... Campaign Defends Lower Rate as Lender Competition for Business" CONCORD TIMES 7/3

"Obama Focuses on Faith; McCain Slams Earmarks in Crime Speech" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/3

"Obama Works to Mobilize 'Christian Left'" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/3

"Powell Meets with McCain and Obama" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/3

"McCain Urges Colombia Trade Deal" DEMOCRAT 7/3

"Obama Describes His faith: Senator Describes Spiritual Journey"

CONCORD TIMES 7/7

"Foreclosures to Rise Whoever Wins White House" AWARENESS TIMES 7/7

"Companies Begin Quest for Oil, Gas off Fla. Coast" AWARENESS TIMES 7/7

"US 'Pregnant man' Has Baby Girl" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/7

"Voters Say Both Candidates Flip-flop" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/7

"Obama: 'We've Fallen Short in Caring for Vets'" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/7

"Candidates Tout Plans to Fix Economy" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/9; SALONE TIMES 7/9

"Mechanical Glitch Grounds Obama's Plane" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/9

"McCain Campaign Calls Obama's Words into Action" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/9

"Obama to Accept Nomination at Brancos' Stadium... Thousands More Can Attend Speech" CONCORD TIMES 7/9

"Iran Leader Plays Down War Talk" CONCORD TIMES 7/9

"Iran to 'Hit Tel Aviv, US Ships' If Attacked" SALONE TIMES 7/9

"Obama to Rally 75,000 in Convention Spectacular" SALONE TIMES 7/9

"Iran Gen.: Our Finger Always on the Trigger" THE SPECTATOR 7/10  
"Candidates Refine their Stances on a Changing Iraq" CONCORD TIMES 7/10  
"Iranian Military Warns U.S., Israel against Attack" CONCORD TIMES 7/10; THE POOL 7/10  
"U.S. Criticizes 'Bellicose' Russia" THE POOL 7/10  
"Obama Looks to Turn Georgia Blue" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/10  
"McCain Looking to Fix major Problems" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/10  
"McCain: Spending is Out of Control" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/10  
"Attack at U.S. Istanbul Consulate" INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/10  
"Iran Missile Test 'Provocative'" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/10; NEW CITIZEN 7/10  
"Bush Ex-Spokesman Tony Snow Dies" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/14; THE POOL 7/14; INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/14  
"Obama, McCain Battle for Blue-Collar Vote" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/14  
"Obama's Surveillance Vote Spurs Blogging Backlash" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/14  
"Fuelling VP Speculation, Obama Heading to Iraq with Hagel, Reed" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/14  
"Obama: Death Penalty for Bin Laden" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/14  
"Germany Denies Being Pressured on Obama... Reports Say White House Objected to Speech Site" CONCORD TIMES 7/14  
"Russia Blasts U.S., UK Over Zimbabwe Vote" CONCORD TIMES 7/14; THE POOL 7/14; INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/14; AFRICAN CHAMPION 7/14  
"Candidates Pushing Hard for the Latino Vote" CONCORD TIMES 7/15  
"Obama Wave Blows Through Berlin" THE DEMOCRAT 7/15  
"Hellboy Overpowers Hancock in US" THE POOL 7/15  
"Obama Promises 10000 More Troops for Afghanistan" SALONE TIMES 7/16  
"Nine U.S. Troops Killed as Taliban Attacked Remote Base" SALONE TIMES 7/16  
"Obama's Focus is Responsibility in NAACP Speech" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/16  
"Obama: Iraq's Timetable Demands 'an Enormous Opportunity'" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/16  
"Obama to Visit West Bank, Palestine Official Says" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/16  
"Militants Breached U.S. Afghan Base" AFRICAN CHAMPION 7/16; INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/18  
"U.S. Slips down Development Index" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/18; INDEPENDENT OBSERVER 7/18  
"Obama Says Time to Rid World of Nuclear Weapons" THE EXCLUSIVE  
"Jesse Jackson Reportedly Also Used N-Word in Off-Air Gaffe" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/18  
"Obama in Danger of Taking Himself Too Seriously" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/18  
"9/11 Billboard Draws Flak from Florida Democrats, GOP" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/18  
"US Official to Attend Iran Talks" AFRICAN CHAMPION 7/18  
"Obama Opens Foreign Tour in Kabul" FOR DI PEOPLE 7/21; NEW AGE 7/21; THE DEMOCRAT 7/21; THE EXCLUSIVE 7/21  
"U.S. Attends Historic Iran Meeting" AFRICAN CHAMPION 7/21; CONCORD TIMES 7/21  
"Obama Arrives in Afghanistan" CONCORD TIMES 7/21; SALONE TIMES 7/22; THE EXCLUSIVE 7/22  
"Will McCain Stop Criticizing Obama When He's Abroad? No" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/21  
"Why Americans Can't Get Over Race" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/21  
"Barack Obama Begins Visit to Iraq" PREMIER NEWS 7/22; SALONE TIMES 7/22; THE EXCLUSIVE 7/22; THE TRUMPET 7/22; FOR DI PEOPLE 7/23  
"Conservative Christian Leader Considers McCain Endorsement" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/22  
"Obama Finds 'Consensus' in Iraq for U.S. Troop Withdrawal" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/23; AFRICAN CHAMPION 7/23; PREMIER NEWS 7/23  
"New York Times Rejects McCain Essay" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/23  
"McCain's Rejected New York Times Op-ed Piece" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/23  
"Obama Gives Pledge on Israel Ties" AFRICAN CHAMPION 7/24  
"Bush Drops Veto to Housing Bill" THE POOL 7/24  
"Obama Firm on Iran Nuclear Plan" THE POOL 7/24; CONCORD TIMES 7/24; CONCORD TIMES 7/24  
"Obama Meets Key Mideast Leaders" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/24  
"Vice President Buzz Swirls around McCain" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/24  
"McCain's Best Shot is Stressing Independence" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/24  
"Could Obama Presidency Hurt Black Americans" THE EXCLUSIVE 7/24  
"Obama Looks to Europe as Partner" Wellington Times 7/25  
"Obama Set for Key Berlin Speech" For Di People 7/25; Premier News 7/25; The Exclusive 7/25; New Age 7/25; The Pool 7/28; Democrat 7/30

"McCain Still Waiting for his Turn at Good Luck" Concord Times 7/25  
 "US Cancer Boss in Mobiles Warning" Concord Times 7/25  
 "Obama Meets Iraqi PM in Baghdad" Independent Observer 7/25  
 "Campaign War Chests near \$200 Million" The Exclusive 7/25  
 "Obama Stands by Plan to Talk with Iran" The Exclusive 7/25  
 "McCain: Give Bush Credit for Oil Price Drop" The Exclusive 7/25  
 "'Who is Bush to Give Us lecture on Human Rights?' Mugabe at UN  
 General Assembly Lashes at History of Colonialism and Exploitation"  
 Peep! Magazine 7/25  
 "Obama Calls Israel a 'Miracle' and Vows Staunch Support" Salone  
 Times 7/25  
 "Obama in London for Talks with UK Leaders" The Exclusive 7/28;  
 Independent Observer 7/28; Democrat 7/28; The New age 7/28; We Yone  
 7/29  
 "Obama: Help from Allies will Improve Things at Home" The Exclusive  
 7/28  
 "McCain: Bin Laden Could Face Nuremburg-like Justice" The Exclusive  
 7/28  
 "Obama: King's Mercedes a Pretty Smooth Ride" The Exclusive 7/28  
 "McCain Says Obama Plays Politics on Iraq... Some Fellow Republicans  
 Question Tactics" Concord Times 7/29  
 "Preston on Politics: Bueller? Bueller? ... McCain Needs Rove" The  
 Exclusive 7/29  
 "Obama, McCain Accuse each other on Shifting on Iraq" The Exclusive  
 7/29  
 "Rabbi Condemns Release of Purported Obama Prayer Note" The  
 Exclusive 7/29  
 "Obama Missed 'Injured US Heroes'" The African Champion 7/29  
 "Record Deficit for Next President" For di people 7/29; The  
 Exclusive 7/30  
 "Commentary: McCain Right, Obama Wrong on School Vouchers" New Age  
 7/30  
 "First U.S. Beef Arrives in S. Korea after Ban" The New Age 7/30;  
 Satellite Newspaper 7/31  
 "Kaine in 'Serious' Talks with Obama" Concord Times 7/30  
 "Bush Approves Execution of Army Private" Concord Times 7/30  
 "Candidates Oppose Quotas, But Offer no Fix for Affirmative Action"  
 The Exclusive 7/30  
 "Candidates Deny Shifting on Iraq" The Exclusive 7/30  
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